CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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Dr. Peter Toma
LATSEC, Inc.
7852 Ivanhoe Avenue
LaJolla, California 92038

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OLC #76-2543

Dear Dr. Toma:

I was pleased that we were able to arrange the recent demonstration of your system on CIA computers. Our personnel were glad to have had a chance to talk to you and to Don Perwin as they initiated their assessment of the product.

We have concluded on the basis of a year-long study that the product of machine translation, with the necessary post-editing, is not cost competitive with the current ☐ effort based on the use of human translators. Nor do we find the quality equivalent to that of the current ☐ product. We acknowledge that machine translation can offer consistency that human translators may not. On the other hand, careful assignment of work, a stable roll of translators and quality check, offer ☐ reasonable consistency of output.

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CIA will continue to monitor developing aspects of MT and be alert to the emergence of tasks anywhere in the Agency to which machine translation might be applicable and where requirements for literary translation may not be so demanding as in the ☐ product.

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Your proposal for establishing a Russian data base and retrieval system for content analysis is being studied. You may expect to hear from us on that subject in the near future.

Sincerely,

/s/John F. Blake

John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration